

educational facilities are inherently unequal," and as such, violate the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees all citizens, "equal protection of the laws." The Brown decision effectively denied the legal basis for segregation in states with segregated classrooms and initiated educational reform throughout the United States. This decision brought all Americans one step closer to attaining equal opportunities in education.

In remembrance of the Brown decision, we must remain steadfast in our efforts to make sure that all children receive the very best education imaginable. Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to join with me today in supporting the establishment of a commission to encourage and provide for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Brown versus Board of Education Supreme Court decision.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE
FAMILIES AMENDMENTS OF 2001

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I am joining my colleague, Representative WALLY HERGER, the Chairman of Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources, in introducing legislation today to reauthorize and increase funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. This legislation would raise the funding level for this important child welfare program from \$305 million to \$505 million per year. In addition, the measure would provide new educational assistance for children who have aged out of foster care, and establish a new mentoring program for the children of prisoners. I commend Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson for providing us with detailed legislative language on the President's proposals in this area, although I was disappointed to see the Administration's recent mid-session review of its budget proposal backtrack on the President's prior commitment to fully implementing these much-needed policies.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the bill would have outlays of \$38 million in FY 2002, meaning that it would not dip into the Social Security Trust Funds (CBO projects a \$2 billion non-Social Security budget surplus in FY 2002). However, we do need to carefully evaluate the impact of this new spending on Social Security funds in future years. We must maintain a responsible budget framework that does not use Social Security funding to finance spending or tax policies. I am prepared to make sufficient budgetary changes to ensure this new legislation meets that test.

As a Nation, we rightfully provide temporary foster homes to children when they are victims of abuse and neglect. However, we do not currently do enough to prevent abuse from occurring in the first place, or to avert it from re-occurring once a problem is identified. This is exactly the purpose of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, which serves families in, or at-risk of becoming involved in, the child welfare system. States have broad discretion in spending funds from this program

for services designed to support at-risk families, to reunify families in an environment safe for children, and to promote adoption when children cannot safely return home. More specifically, States can provide counseling, parenting skills classes, respite services, mental health care, comprehensive caseworker oversight, referral services to other programs, post-adoption assistance and substance abuse treatment. On this last issue, I believe we should establish a separate program with a dedicated funding stream to address to the pervasive connection between parents abusing drugs and alcohol and the incidence of child abuse. Hopefully, that will be our next step after the passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, with nearly 1 million confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect every year, we must increase our Nation's commitment to helping at-risk families and to ensuring safe and nurturing homes for defenseless children. This legislation is not a magic wand that will singlehandedly eradicate child abuse, but it is an important step in our continuing effort to keep children safe and to help families succeed. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

COMMENDING THE GENEROUS
GIFT BY THE HALLMARK CHANNEL
AND JIM HENSON COMPANY
TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Hallmark Channel in partnership with the Jim Henson Company for their recent gift to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Their generous contribution of this license will help the Commission relaunch a national v-chip campaign utilizing Kermit the Frog as the official "spokesfrog" empowering parents with the tools they need to control the programming that their children view.

The Hallmark Channel and Jim Henson Company have recognized the importance of the v-chip and ratings initiatives in empowering viewers to control what comes into their homes over their television sets. Last year, these companies developed an award-winning promotional campaign that designated the world famous and beloved figure of Kermit the Frog as national "spokesfrog" for the v-chip and television ratings system. This year, the Hallmark Channel and Jim Henson Company have gone even further by giving the FCC a license to use Kermit on the informational materials that it distributes. The Commission just completed publication of this new brochure for widespread dissemination.

I am proud to have the world headquarters of Hallmark located in my home district in Kansas City, Missouri. The company has a long history of serving the metropolitan Kansas City area as well as other communities throughout the nation. Hallmark has repeatedly demonstrated its civic commitment through its Hallmark Hall of Fame television programs. The powerful message of these award winning programs bring meaningful and wholesome entertainment into our living

rooms. Its leadership in partnering with the Salvation Army has turned the donation of greeting cards to a prison chaplain for distribution to inmates so they may stay in touch with their families into a national model of rehabilitation involving both the federal and state prison systems.

Hallmark not only provides millions of dollars annually to outstanding charitable causes, it has repeatedly been recognized as one of the most outstanding places to work in the country. Its creative environment is family focused, which invites its associates to excel and want to come to work each day. Clearly, Hallmark is an outstanding national model of corporate citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives in commending the Hallmark Channel and Jim Henson Company for this generous gift to the FCC. Their ongoing efforts to provide the viewing public with family friendly programming choices, and their helping in educating the public about the v-chip and the ratings systems are greatly appreciated.

HONORING FRANK NELSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember the life of Frank Nelson who passed away on Wednesday, September 5, 2001. Frank was the Director of Colorado's Commission for Persons with Disabilities for over a decade and I would like to recognize him for his contributions to the Denver community and for his diligent efforts and dedication.

Frank was born in New Hampshire and relocated to Denver, Colorado when he was 2 years old. In 1981, he graduated with a degree in education from the University of Colorado. Following his formal education, Frank was employed by the Montana Independent Living Project, but returned to Denver in 1984 to work as a social worker and vocational counselor.

During his tenure as the Director of the Commission, Frank and his colleagues strived to enhance the accessibility of municipal areas and sought to ensure that parking laws were enforced for the sake of the disabled. Besides these tasks, Frank's team also worked in conjunction with other parts of the city government to review new building plans and make them more accommodating for everyone. Whether it was the new construction of the Pepsi Center, Coors Field or the Denver Performing Arts Center, Frank always challenged the project for the benefit of disabled citizens. Due in part to his efforts, Denver was recognized as "America's most wheelchair friendly city" by New Mobility Magazine in 1997.

Mr. Speaker, Frank was an outstanding citizen who constantly watched out for the well being of everyone, particularly the disabled. His contributions in Denver have aided numerous people in living life to its fullest extent. I would like to take this time to recognize Frank's hard work on the behalf of others and extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to his family at this time of remembrance. Frank was a great man and will be missed by many.